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UNCLAS LA PAZ 1027

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SUBJ: ALTMANN CASE
RRF: LA PAZ 1017

1. ALTMANN CASE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE FRONTPAGE TREATMENT IN MOST LA PAZ NEWS MEDIA. IN LATEST DEVELOPMENTS MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RELEASED COMMUNIQUE ON FEBRUARY 23 STATING THAT BEATE KLARSFELD HAD BEEN GRANTED A VISA TO ENTER BOLIVIA. PRESENCIA REPORTED, AND WE CAN CONFIRM, THAT PRESIDENT BANZER PERSONALLY ORDERED THE VISA ISSUANCE. SUBSECRETARY OF IMMIGRATION INFORMED PRESS THAT KLARSFELD WOULD BE REQUIRED TO "STRICTLY COMPLY" WITH TOURIST STATUS AND THAT SHE WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED, THROUGH "DECLARATIONS OR OTHER MEANS", TO INVOLVE HERSELF IN INTERNAL BOLIVIAN MATTERS. IN LIMA DATED LINE STORY, FEBRUARY 24 HOY REPRODUCED LETTER KLARSFELD ALLEGEDLY SENT TO ALTMANN IN WHICH SHE STATED HE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ACCEPT EXTRADITION, AS "YOUR PROTECTORS CANNOT PREVENT YOUR CAPTURE OR POSSIBLY YOUR BEING SHOT".

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES INFORMED PRESS THAT ALTMANN'S LAWYERS HAD PRESENTED DOCUMENTS TO THE MINISTRY WHICH, LAWYERS ALLEGE, PROVE ALTMANN IS NOT BARBIE. ACCORDING TO PRESENCIA ARTICLE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS STATED THAT ALL DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE CASE WERE BEING CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF BOTH BOLIVIAN AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND THAT ALTHOUGH BOLIVIA RESPECTS INTERNATIONAL LAW, AS A SOVEREIGN

SECRET

201-Altman

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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B28
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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STATE IT MUST ENFORCE LOCAL LAW.

3. IN FEBRUARY 23 COMMUNIQUE THE GERMAN EMBASSY STATED THAT CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS THE GOG DOES NOT PAY REWARDS FOR THE CAPTURE OF WAR CRIMINALS. IT ADDED THAT IT IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE CASE BECAUSE OF A N AGREEMENT WITH GOF THAT FRG WILL NOT "TRY PERSONS IF A JUDGMENT AGAINST A PERSON HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE IN FRANCE".

4. FEBRUARY 24 PRESENCIA CARRIED PARIS DATELINED STORY ON THE REACTION OF "MOVEMENT AGAINST RACISM, ANTI-SEMITISM AND PRO-PEACE" (MRAR) TO ALLEGED GOG REFUSAL TO GRANT EXTRADITION. ARTICLE STATES THAT MRAR REQUESTS GOG BE PRESSURED TO GRANT EXTRADITION AND ADDS THAT ALTMANN HAD BEEN ABLE TO HIDE "THANKS TO THE PROTECTION HE RECEIVES AS CIAAGENT AND AS AN ACTIVE COLLABORATOR OF THE DICTATORIAL REGIME UNDER WHICH BOLIVIA IS SUFFERING".

5. COMMENT: STATEMENTS SUCH AS THOSE ALLEGEDLY MADE BY THE MRAR ARE UNLIKELY TO STRIKE A RESPONSIVE CHORD IN THE GOG AND CAN ONLY MAKE MORE CONTROVERSIAL THE QUESTION OF EXTRADITION, WHICH IS STILL UNDER STUDY. SIRACUSA

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